

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Disclosed herein is a method and apparatus for maintaining communication between a dependent and a communications network when the dependent is outside a coverage area associated with its master using a controller and a communications network. In one

5 embodiment, when the dependent is in a piconet, the dependent is within communication range of its master using a communication channel on frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(1)$. When the dependent moves outside the piconet, the dependent should be within communication range of the controller and, thus, switches to another communication channel within frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(1)$ such that it may communicate with the controller. When the dependent moves outside the communication range

10 of the controller, the dependent should be within communication range of a communications network or a base station and, thus, switches to a communication channel within another frequency band $f_{\text{band}}(2)$.